

**Joint National Committee for Languages
National Council for Language and International Studies**

August 2012 Update

Message from the Executive Director

Dear Members of the Joint National Committee for Languages and the National Council for Language and International Studies,

It is my pleasure to provide a brief update on the activities of JNCL-NCLIS over the past month. My first month on the job has been busy, including meeting and talking with several of the members, presenting on JNCL-NCLIS at the annual meeting of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese, and working with the staff on several key areas to improve member services and communications. We have added a new staffer, Ms. Crystal Goldie, who supported the July meeting of the JNCL-NCLIS Executive Committee. JNCL-NCLIS activity on Capitol Hill has continued, even as the summer lull sets in DC.

The staff will provide regular monthly updates to keep you informed, and we will be providing alerts and action items as well, as the need arises. In addition, the minutes of Executive Committee and Board meetings will be provided to you. Over the coming months you will see significant improvements to the website, as we redesign it, and more services for the members, as we work on advocacy and collaboration.

Next week, you will receive a brief, web-based survey about the Delegate Assembly and your organizations' policy priorities. Please do complete these in a timely manner, as we will need to begin working on the venue for the delegate assembly in September. Aside from the "tyranny of the imminent," these surveys are vitally important for the Board, Executive Committee, and Staff, as we look to improve the Delegate Assembly program and to ensure that your issues are put before the legislative and executive branches.

Finally, please do contact us in the JNCL-NCLIS office with your ideas, questions, and concerns – we are here to support you. My email is wrivers@languagepolicy.org, and my phone number is 202-966-8477.

Thank you again for your energy and contributions to improving language education in the US,

Sincerely,
Bill Rivers

Introducing JNCL-NCLIS Policy Analyst, Ms. Crystal Goldie

Please join me in welcoming Ms. Crystal Goldie, our new Policy Analyst. Crystal received degrees in History and Government and Politics, with a minor in International Development and Conflict Management, from the University of Maryland at College Park. She studied Spanish in Middle and High School in Montgomery County, Maryland, and spent a semester in the Yoruba program in

Ibadan, Nigeria, as a Boren Scholar of the National Security Education Program. Crystal also interned on Capitol Hill in the offices of Representative Ed Perlmutter (D-7, CO) and in the House Foreign Affairs Committee. She was selected as a participant in the US Congress-Korean National Assembly Youth Exchange Program in 2010. She brings enthusiasm for language and public policy to JNCL-NCLIS in addition to her language and international experience. Her email address is cgoldie@languagepolicy.org.

JNCL-NCLIS at the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese

Thanks to the kind invitation of Dr. Emily Spinelli, Executive Director of the American Association of Teachers of Spanish and Portuguese (and member of the JNCL-NCLIS Board of Directors), JNCL-NCLIS was well represented at this year's meeting of AATSP in San Juan, PR. On behalf of JNCL-NCLIS, I presented to the AATSP Executive Council, the AATSP Past Presidents' Council, the AATSP Business Meeting, the AATSP Chapter Delegate Assembly, as well as during a regular conference session. In other words, Emily kept me busy! The presentation covered the state of the language enterprise in the US – the public and private sector teaching, translation, interpreting, and other language work that is vital to our educational system, national security, and economic competitiveness – as well as the current activities and future directions of JNCL-NCLIS. The presentation will be posted on the JNCL-NCLIS website in the near future.

Contact Information and Invoices

As you all know, the first invoices for the current JNCL-NCLIS Fiscal Year have been sent. Please do send your contribution, if you haven't already. The staff is aware that some invoices were incorrect, and we will work with you to correct the invoice if this is the case. Secondly, please do make sure that we have current contact information for your organization. Ideally, we'd like to have the contact information for the Executive Directors and Presidents/Chairs of Boards of Directors, as well as for your organizations' delegates. Ms. Goldie will be working with each organization to verify contact information over the coming month.

Policy Updates

JNCL-NCLIS visits to Capitol Hill

One of the pleasures of being involved with JNCL-NCLIS for me over the years has been the opportunity as a delegate to visit staff and members of Congress. As the Executive Director, this is one of the central responsibilities I have to the organizations that comprise the JNCL-NCLIS membership, and to the language enterprise as a whole. Your input and participation in these meetings is vital.

As JNCL-NCLIS moves forward in the coming year, we are implementing a new practice to improve our visits to the Hill and to engage the membership in these visits. Effective immediately, JNCL-NCLIS are instituting a new practice for the visits to Capitol Hill:

- Whenever possible, the Staff will alert the membership and Board that a visit has been planned;
- For each visit, the Staff will ask the membership to respond to the following requests:

- What community-wide issues might resonate with this office?
- What issues might be important for the voters in that district?
- Would someone representing your organization be available to accompany and contribute to discussions in either of those areas?

In the past month, we have had visits to the offices of the Representative Sam Farr (D-17, CA), Representative Rush Holt (D-12, NJ), the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (minority staff). These meetings were held in part to introduce the new JNCL-NCLIS staff, but more importantly, to discuss the climate for funding for foreign language programs in the coming years. We have clear signals that there is support for foreign language on both sides of the aisle, and in both houses of Congress. That being said, the budgetary climate means that securing increases in funding will continue to be a challenge; moreover, given the upcoming election, we have been told that there will be a continuing resolution (CR) holding all funding steady at Fiscal Year 2012 levels, for the first six months of FY13. This makes additional changes to current funding unlikely until the spring; we will continue to advocate, nonetheless. The JNCL-NCLIS staff will continue to monitor the funding situation, and will ask for support from the membership as funding decisions come closer.

JNCL-NCLIS joins ACTFL Coalition Letter to President Obama on the Fiscal Year 2014 Budget

Finally, please consider joining ACTFL on the coalition letter to the President regarding Foreign Language education in the 2014 budget. The letter, in draft form below, urges the president to restore funding that has been cut for FLAP and Title VI/Fulbright-Hays, and to increase funding for other vital programs, such as the Language Flagship and StarTALK. ACTFL is leading a coalition of associations in this effort, in order to ensure that funding is included in the President's requested budget for 2014. That request will be sent to Congress after the new year; regardless of the results of the Fall elections, this is an important step to engage the administration in order that it signal to Congress that these important programs have the support of the executive branch. If you have questions on the letter, you may contact Marty Abbott at ACTFL (mabbott@actfl.org) or the JNCL-NCLIS office (info@languagepolicy.org). Please do consider the value of your organization in joining this effort.

DRAFT

May 21st, 2012

President Barack Obama
1600 Pennsylvania Ave NW
Washington DC, 20500

Dear President Obama:

Every year American students graduate high school without the necessary language and cultural training to meet the demands of an increasingly interconnected world. The lack of linguistically proficient and culturally competent students poses a threat to our national security and economic prosperity. In March, the Council on Foreign Relations published a report authored by Condoleezza Rice and Joel Klein that found, “The lack of language skills and civic and global awareness among American citizens increasingly jeopardizes their ability to interact with local and global peers or participate meaningfully in business, diplomatic, and military situations. The United States is not producing enough foreign-language speakers to staff important posts in the U.S. Foreign Service, the intelligence community, and American companies.”¹

Despite critical security and economic needs, we have failed to adequately support language programs that start in the early grades and create a continuity of best-in-class language instruction through college. As Michelle Obama said at the launch of the “100,000 Strong” Initiative, “Getting ahead in today’s workplaces isn’t just about the skills you bring from the classroom. It’s also about the experience you have with the world beyond our borders -- with people, and languages, and cultures that are very different from our own.”² Already, programs across the federal government are building the human capital that businesses and government agencies need to operate in an interconnected world, but we need to do more. **Given the national security and economic imperative of language learning, we urge you to address the need for all American students to learn a second language and prioritize the following programs in your Fiscal Year 2014 budget.**

- **Language Flagships (*Department of Defense*):** Language Flagships is a national model for designing and implementing best-in-class language programs at the K-12, college, and graduate levels. Language Flagships funds centers of intensive language instruction at universities across the country and K-16 language programs that offer pathways to superior proficiency starting in the early grades. For example, the University of Oregon partners with the Portland Public Schools to offer rigorous content and language instruction beginning in the early grades and continuing through an articulated language pathway. This partnership produces students with superior proficiency who become significant assets to our national

¹ Klein, Joel I., Condoleezza Rice, and Julia Levy. *U.S. Education Reform and National Security*. Rep. Independent Task Force Report No. 68. Council on Foreign Relations, 20 Mar. 2012. Web. <<http://www.cfr.org/united-states/us-education-reform-national-security/p27618>>.

² Obama, Michelle. "Remarks by the First Lady at Her “100K Strong” State Visit Event." Speech. Howard University, Washington, DC. 19 Jan. 2011. *Speeches and Remarks*. White House. Web. <<http://www.whitehouse.gov/the-press-office/2011/01/19/remarks-first-lady-her-100k-strong-state-visit-event>>.

security and economic competitiveness. Yet, more are needed. We ask that you also support funding for centers in additional critical languages such as French and Spanish, which will further increase our national security capacity.

- **STARTALK (*National Security Agency*):** STARTALK, created under the George W. Bush National Security Language Initiative (NSLI), runs high-quality K-16 summer programs for language teachers and students in 48 states and the District of Columbia. STARTALK's goal is to provide innovative language instruction, train world-class language teachers, facilitate 21st century curriculum development, and create high-quality assessments. The programs are outcomes-driven, standards-based, and learner-centered and help build the language skills our country desperately needs. In order to more widely disseminate these best-practices, we ask that you support STARTALK providing technical assistance and professional development year-round.
- **US Department of State Programs for Language Immersion: National Security Language Initiative for Youth, Critical Language Scholarships, Intensive Summer Language Institutes, and Teachers of Critical Languages Program (*Department of State*):** The Department of State administers these four programs as components of the National Security Language initiative, providing a pipeline of students and trained teachers to support the programs of the DoD. The National Security Language Initiative for Youth, or NSLI-Y an, provides merit-based scholarships to students in grades 9-12 to learn critical need languages through overseas summer and academic-year immersion programs. The program seeks to train a cohort of Americans with high-level linguistic and cultural competencies and to foster an interest in other languages and cultures among program participants. The Critical Languages Scholarships provides overseas foreign language instruction and cultural enrichment experiences in 13 critical need languages for U.S. students in higher education. The ISLI and TCLP provide support to teachers in critical languages with opportunities to improve their language and pedagogical skills.
- **International and Foreign Language Education Programs under Title VI of the Higher Education Act and Fulbright-Hays (*Department of Education*):** Title VI of the Higher Education Act (HEA) authorizes 10 domestic programs to strengthen American higher education in foreign languages and international studies. Fulbright-Hays supports four complimentary overseas programs to improve teaching and research of other cultures and languages, training of specialists, and the American public's understanding of peoples of other countries. For over 50 years, these programs have strengthened our knowledge of all world areas and helped students gain expertise in over 200 foreign languages.

The programs described above begin to address the language crisis in our country, but more needs to be done. In order to create a national priority on language learning the federal government must articulate the imperative for multilingual graduates, identify and promote best-in-class approaches to language learning, and support the development and scaling of high-quality language programs. **We**

encourage you to prioritize American security, American students as global citizens, and American economic interests by supporting these programs in your FY 2014 budget.